

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3112

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UK

SUBJECT: FINANCIAL TIMES ARTICLE ON PRESIDENT FORD'S
VISIT

REF: LONDON 11183

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF THE ITEM IN THE JULY 22 FINANCIAL
TIMES COLUMN "MEN AND MATTERS" REFERRING TO PRESIDENT
FORD'S POSSIBLE VISIT TO THE UK:

"PRESIDENT FORD: WHO SNUBS WHO?"

"PRESIDENT FORD WAS COMING TO LONDON ON AUGUST 3
AND 4--OR SO INFORMED RUMOUR HAD IT--AND THE OFFICIAL
ANNOUNCEMENT WAS EXPECTED ANY DAY. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN
HIS FIRST TRIP HERE SINCE HE BECAME PRESIDENT, MAKING UP
FOR AN EARLIER EUROPEAN TOUR IN WHICH HE VISITED BELGIUM,
SPAIN, ITALY AND AUSTRIA, BUT NOT BRITAIN.

"THIS TIME HE IS GOING TO BONN, WARSAW, HELSINKI
(FOR THE EUROPEAN SECURITY CONFERENCE), BUCHAREST AND
BELGRADE. LONDON WAS TO HAVE COME AT THE END.

"NOW IT APPEARS LONDON HAS BEEN STRUCK OFF THE
LIST. THE PRESIDENT IS PREPARED TO MAKE NO MORE THAN A
"TECHNICAL STOPOVER" AT LONDON AIRPORT. BRITAIN HAS AP-
ARENTLY DECIDED TO PLAY IT TOUGH, SO THERE WILL BE NO
GOING OUT TO THE AIRPORT TO SEE HIM. EITHER THE PRESI-
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DENT COMES PROPERLY OR THERE ARE NO TALKS. AFTER ALL,

THIS IS A MATTER OF PROTOCOL; IT IS NOT AS IF HE WERE
HENRY KISSINGER, WHO CAN SUMMON JAMES CALLAGHAN AT THE
DROP OF A HAT.

RICHARDSON

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